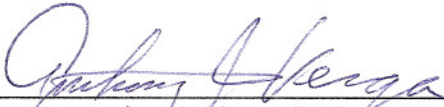




**Report of the Special Commission to Study
Higher Education Tuition and Fee Waiver Programs for Veterans**

May 2006

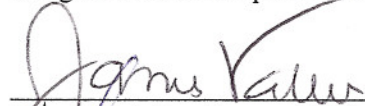
Special Commission Members



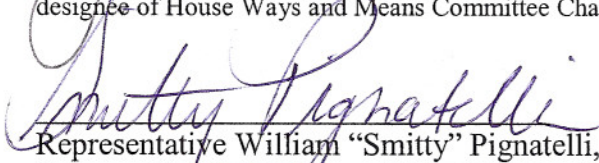
Representative Anthony J. Verga
Joint Committee on Veterans & Federal Affairs, House Chair
Special Commission Chair



Representative Lida E. Harkins
designee of House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi



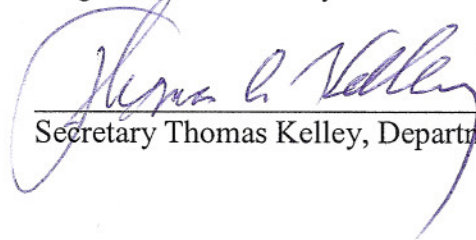
Representative James E. Vallee
designee of House Ways and Means Committee Chair Robert DeLeo



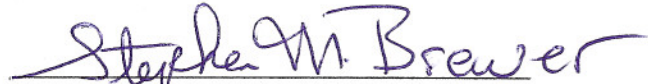
Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli,
designee of Joint Committee on Higher Education House Chair Kevin Murphy



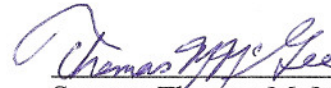
Representative Susan W. Pope
designee of House Minority Leader Bradley Jones



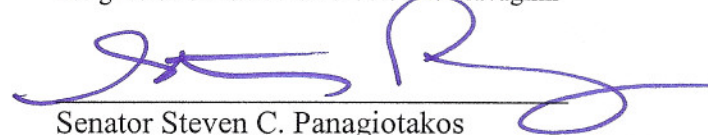
Secretary Thomas Kelley, Department of Veterans' Services



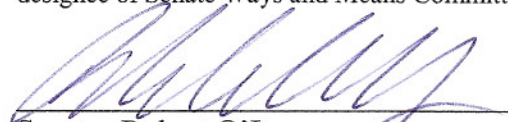
Senator Stephen M. Brewer
Joint Committee on Veterans & Federal Affairs, Senate Chair



Senator Thomas M. McGee,
designee of Senate President Robert Travaglini



Senator Steven C. Panagiotakos
designee of Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Therese Murray



Senator Robert O'Leary
Joint Committee on Higher Education, Senate Chair



Senator Scott Brown
designee of Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees

Executive Summary

In November 2005, the Legislature enacted "The Welcome Home Bill," an act providing benefits to servicemembers, veterans and their families, Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2005. The new law includes many benefits for Massachusetts veterans, servicemembers and their families, including a waiver of tuition and fees for all members of the Massachusetts national guard who chose to attend state institutions of higher education. Section 12 of "The Welcome Home Bill" also created a Special Commission "to study tuition and fee waiver programs . . . for veterans." Our study was to include "an evaluation of the feasibility of expanding the programs to include any fees, rather than solely matriculation fees, a review of the current pool of eligible recipients and the level of state and local payments for such fees, and an analysis of the need for changes in the laws and regulations relative thereto . . ."

Approximately 24,000 servicemembers have returned home to Massachusetts since September 11, 2001, after having heroically and nobly served our great nation. These men and women face an unemployment rate that is three times higher than the national average. They also must confront advanced education costs are also well above the national average. As our servicemembers return, education can help facilitate a smoother transition into civilian life. It is no secret that quality and availability of education plays an essential role in enhancing employment opportunities. By providing comprehensive educational opportunities to all Veterans, we will open the door to improving their quality of life.

The mandatory fees at public higher education institutions are generally four times the cost of tuition. Because the laws providing education benefits have not kept pace with the escalating costs of higher education, the current tuition waiver has become insignificant when a potential participant decides whether seeking a higher degree is financially feasible. We must level the playing field for all Veterans in the Commonwealth and allow them to attend state colleges and universities without the burden of ever increasing costs that, in turn, can lead to increased borrowing and debt.

A tuition and fee waiver benefit is not a handout, it is a hand up. This is benefit that has been earned. This is a benefit that has already been paid for by our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, who did their jobs and put their lives on hold, both at home and abroad, to protect our freedom.

Part One: Goals

The Commission, in consultation with the Board of Higher Education, the Department of Veterans' Services, and the State Treasurer's Office has determined the following:

- (1) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts should extend the education benefits established in "The Welcome Home Bill" for Massachusetts national guard members to all Massachusetts veterans,
- (2) Tuition and fee waivers should be made available for all veterans to attend public institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth, and
- (3) Such a veterans' educational waiver program should hold state universities and colleges harmless, with the Commonwealth bearing the cost for such waivers.

These goals will allow the Commonwealth to recognize the services and sacrifices made by all who wore the uniform, while ensuring that the Commonwealth's institutions of public higher education are not held accountable for the cost of this benefit.

Part Two: Examination of Massachusetts Veterans Population

According to The Department of Veterans' Services, there are approximately 476,000 veterans, as defined by clause forty-third of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, who reside in Massachusetts today. The Department of Veterans of Affairs (VA) has projected that the population of veterans in Massachusetts will steadily decline between the present and 2010. The chart below, compiled from the VA's *VetPop 2004* database, breaks down the veteran population in Massachusetts by age group.

Date	9/30/2005	Table 1L: VETERANS BY STATE, AGE GROUP,
Period	(All)	<i>Numbers from this table should be reported to the nearest 1,000. See documentation for details.</i>
Gender	(All)	

Veterans	Age Groups																	
State	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Grand Total	
Massachusetts	216	4,844	10,188	13,680	18,671	27,704	31,783	31,256	66,323	55,482	46,399	52,027	50,819	41,214	20,618	5,140	476,363	
Grand Total	216	4,844	10,188	13,680	18,671	27,704	31,783	31,256	66,323	55,482	46,399	52,027	50,819	41,214	20,618	5,140	476,363	

Date	9/30/2006	Table 1L: VETERANS BY STATE, AGE GROUP
Period	(All)	<i>Numbers from this table should be reported to the nearest 1,000. See documentation for details.</i>
Gender	(All)	

Veterans	Age Groups																	
State	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Grand Total	
Massachusetts		215	4,952	10,633	12,981	17,979	25,669	31,446	30,475	56,190	61,344	45,679	48,763	48,038	39,925	21,896	5,899	462,083
Grand Total		215	4,952	10,633	12,981	17,979	25,669	31,446	30,475	56,190	61,344	45,679	48,763	48,038	39,925	21,896	5,899	462,083

Date	9/30/2007	Table 1L: VETERANS BY STATE, AGE GROUP
Period	(All)	<i>Numbers from this table should be reported to the nearest 1,000. See documentation for details.</i>
Gender	(All)	

Veterans	Age Groups																	
State	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Grand Total	
Massachusetts		194	4,759	10,976	12,541	17,433	23,574	30,501	30,368	46,420	64,312	47,031	45,011	46,261	39,054	22,480	6,733	447,649
Grand Total		194	4,759	10,976	12,541	17,433	23,574	30,501	30,368	46,420	64,312	47,031	45,011	46,261	39,054	22,480	6,733	447,649

Date	9/30/2008	Table 1L: VETERANS BY STATE, AGE GROUP,
Period	(All)	<i>Numbers from this table should be reported to the nearest 1,000. See documentation for details.</i>
Gender	(All)	

Veterans	Age Groups																	
State	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Grand Total	
Massachusetts	178	4,638	11,079	12,264	16,686	21,738	29,982	30,940	38,230	65,578	47,369	43,068	44,177	37,193	22,763	7,458	433,339	
Grand Total	178	4,638	11,079	12,264	16,686	21,738	29,982	30,940	38,230	65,578	47,369	43,068	44,177	37,193	22,763	7,458	433,339	

Date	9/30/2009	Table 1L: VETERANS BY STATE, AGE GROUP,
Period	(All)	<i>Numbers from this table should be reported to the nearest 1,000. See documentation for details.</i>
Gender	(All)	

Veterans	Age Groups																	
State	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Grand Total	
Massachusetts	168	4,551	10,936	12,446	15,696	19,988	29,115	30,931	33,195	64,834	48,056	40,746	42,630	35,079	22,634	8,284	419,289	
Grand Total	168	4,551	10,936	12,446	15,696	19,988	29,115	30,931	33,195	64,834	48,056	40,746	42,630	35,079	22,634	8,284	419,289	

Date	9/30/2010	Table 1L: VETERANS BY STATE, AGE GROUP
Period	(All)	<i>Numbers from this table should be reported to the nearest 1,000. See documentation for details.</i>
Gender	(All)	

Veterans	Age Groups																	
State	< 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+	Grand Total	
Massachusetts	168	4,491	10,765	12,840	14,186	19,299	27,620	31,040	30,003	61,604	49,832	39,131	39,938	33,662	22,053	9,053	405,685	
Grand Total	168	4,491	10,765	12,840	14,186	19,299	27,620	31,040	30,003	61,604	49,832	39,131	39,938	33,662	22,053	9,053	405,685	

Part Three: Public Institutions of Higher Education Full-time Resident Tuition and Fee Rates 2005/06

Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws designates the public institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth.

Tuition at Massachusetts Public Colleges and University Full-Time Resident Undergraduate State-Supported Rates

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Change				
											FY02 -01	FY03 -02	FY04 -03	FY05 -04	FY06 -05
UMass Amherst	\$2,109	\$2,004	1,904	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UMass Boston	\$2,109	\$2,004	1,904	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	1,714	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UMass Dartmouth	\$1,744	\$1,657	1,574	1,417	1,417	1,417	1,417	1,417	1,417	1,417	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UMass Lowell	\$1,790	\$1,700	1,615	1,454	1,454	1,454	1,454	1,454	1,454	1,454	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bridgewater	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,150	1,030	970	910	910	910	910	910	-6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fitchburg	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,210	1,090	1,030	970	970	970	970	970	-5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Framingham	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,210	1,090	1,030	970	970	970	970	970	-5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MassArt	\$1,390	\$1,320	1,260	1,140	1,090	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030	-5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MCLA	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,210	1,090	1,090	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030	-5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mass Maritime	\$1,390	\$1,320	1,260	1,140	1,090	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,030	1,062	-5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%
Salem	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,150	1,030	970	910	910	910	910	910	-6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Westfield	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,210	1,090	1,030	970	970	970	970	970	-5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Worcester	\$1,338	\$1,270	1,210	1,090	1,030	970	970	970	970	970	-5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Berkshire	\$1,080	\$1,020	960	870	780	780	780	780	780	780	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bristol	\$1,080	\$1,020	900	810	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bunker Hill	\$1,080	\$1,020	900	810	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cape Cod	\$1,080	\$1,020	930	840	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Greenfield	\$1,080	\$1,020	960	870	780	780	780	780	780	780	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Holyoke	\$1,080	\$1,020	900	810	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Massachusetts Bay	\$1,080	\$1,020	930	840	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Massasoit	\$1,080	\$1,020	930	840	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Middlesex	\$1,080	\$1,020	900	810	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mount Wachusett	\$1,080	\$1,020	960	870	750	750	750	750	750	750	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
North Shore	\$1,080	\$1,020	900	810	750	750	750	750	750	750	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Northern Essex	\$1,080	\$1,020	930	840	750	750	750	750	750	750	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Quinsigamond	\$1,080	\$1,020	900	810	720	720	720	720	720	720	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Roxbury	\$1,080	\$1,020	930	840	780	780	780	780	780	780	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
STCC	\$1,080	\$1,020	930	840	750	750	750	750	750	750	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Weighted Avg UMass*	\$2,004	\$1,903	1,808	1,629	1,626	1,624	1,619	1,618	1,618	1,618	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Weighted Avg State Colleges*	\$1,342	\$1,274	1,190	1,071	1,014	955	954	954	953	954	-5.9%	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%
Weighted Avg Community Colleges*	\$1,080	\$1,020	919	829	735	734	734	734	734	734	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Weighted Avg All Colleges & University*	\$1,478	\$1,388	1,293	1,166	1,111	1,091	1,082	1,078	1,076	1,076	-1.8%	-0.9%	-0.4%	-0.2%	0.0%

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education: Fiscal Policy (Tuition & Fee Survey)

*Weighted data calculated based on % Undergraduate FTE of total by Segment and overall.

Mandatory Fees at Massachusetts Public Colleges and University
Full-Time Resident Undergraduate State-Supported Rates

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Change				
											FY02 -01	FY03 -02	FY04 -03	FY05 -04	FY06 -05
UMass Amherst	3,304	3,325	3,325	3,498	3,498	3,498	4,768	5,768	7,294	7,564	0.0%	36.3%	21.0%	26.5%	3.7%
UMass Boston	2,234	2,288	2,288	2,508	2,508	2,508	3,508	4,518	6,310	6,551	0.0%	39.9%	28.8%	39.7%	3.8%
UMass Dartmouth	2,407	2,597	2,597	2,712	2,712	2,712	3,712	4,712	6,385	6,619	0.0%	36.9%	26.9%	35.5%	3.7%
UMass Lowell	2,722	2,722	2,722	2,801	2,801	2,801	3,759	4,760	6,437	6,712	0.0%	34.2%	26.6%	35.2%	4.3%
Bridgewater	2,102	2,033	2,033	2,033	1,913	1,913	2,825	3,480	4,416	4,596	0.0%	47.7%	23.2%	26.9%	4.1%
Fitchburg	1,992	2,026	1,998	1,928	1,988	2,018	2,718	3,216	3,618	4,032	1.5%	34.7%	18.3%	12.5%	11.4%
Framingham	1,890	1,880	1,860	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,364	3,354	3,684	4,029	0.0%	31.3%	41.9%	9.8%	9.4%
MassArt	2,644	2,644	2,644	2,668	2,788	3,038	3,938	4,738	5,370	5,820	9.0%	29.6%	20.3%	13.3%	8.4%
MCLA	2,147	2,167	2,167	2,267	2,267	2,467	3,167	4,367	4,387	4,586	8.8%	28.4%	37.9%	0.5%	4.5%
Mass Maritime	1,784	1,784	1,784	1,784	1,783	1,883	2,633	3,833	4,133	4,246	5.6%	39.8%	45.6%	7.8%	2.7%
Salem	2,006	1,987	1,928	1,928	2,128	2,128	3,028	4,078	4,544	4,684	0.0%	42.3%	34.7%	11.4%	3.1%
Westfield	1,824	1,824	1,824	1,884	1,886	1,986	2,785	3,588	3,887	4,688	5.3%	40.2%	28.8%	8.3%	20.6%
Worcester	1,345	1,345	1,345	1,368	1,478	1,603	2,303	3,153	3,609	4,110	8.5%	43.7%	36.9%	14.5%	13.9%
Berkshire	1,620	1,620	1,620	1,650	1,710	1,920	2,310	2,610	2,610	2,820	12.3%	20.3%	13.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Bristol	1,380	1,320	1,320	1,260	1,350	1,440	2,100	2,340	2,520	3,030	6.7%	45.8%	11.4%	7.7%	20.2%
Bunker Hill	1,320	1,320	1,290	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,680	2,280	2,280	2,280	0.0%	36.6%	35.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Cape Cod	1,530	1,515	1,432	1,440	1,590	1,740	2,460	2,460	2,940	2,940	9.4%	41.4%	0.0%	19.5%	0.0%
Greenfield	1,382	1,367	1,367	1,367	1,517	1,727	2,237	2,537	2,867	3,202	13.8%	29.5%	13.4%	13.0%	11.7%
Holyoke	1,452	1,456	1,426	1,366	1,456	1,716	2,076	2,376	2,378	2,468	17.9%	21.0%	14.5%	0.1%	3.8%
Massachusetts Bay	1,290	1,230	1,275	1,170	1,170	1,240	2,150	2,450	2,930	2,930	6.0%	73.4%	14.0%	19.6%	0.0%
Massasoit	1,290	1,260	1,230	1,230	1,320	1,320	1,920	2,610	2,610	2,610	0.0%	45.5%	35.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Middlesex	1,670	1,610	1,550	1,550	1,640	1,790	2,300	2,660	2,930	2,930	9.1%	28.5%	15.7%	10.2%	0.0%
Mount Wachusett	1,980	1,930	1,840	1,790	1,820	1,940	2,660	3,260	3,260	3,220	6.6%	37.1%	22.6%	0.0%	-1.2%
North Shore	1,410	1,380	1,320	1,320	1,440	1,740	2,340	2,640	2,640	2,730	20.8%	34.5%	12.8%	0.0%	3.4%
Northern Essex	1,470	1,425	1,380	1,380	1,440	1,530	1,920	2,220	2,220	2,400	6.3%	25.5%	15.6%	0.0%	8.1%
Quinsigamond	1,290	1,230	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170	2,010	2,880	2,880	2,880	0.0%	71.8%	43.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Roxbury	1,320	1,260	1,260	1,230	1,320	1,320	1,670	2,470	2,680	2,680	0.0%	26.5%	47.9%	8.5%	0.0%
STCC	1,550	1,490	1,430	1,430	1,434	1,684	1,984	2,394	2,454	2,604	17.4%	17.8%	20.7%	2.5%	6.1%
Weighted Avg UMass*	2,888	2,925	2,919	3,077	3,072	3,069	4,179	5,184	6,819	7,079	-0.1%	36.2%	24.0%	31.6%	3.8%
Weighted Avg State Colleges*	1,945	1,918	1,912	1,913	1,947	1,999	2,789	3,637	4,147	4,494	2.7%	39.5%	30.4%	14.0%	8.4%
Weighted Avg Community Colleges*	1,449	1,407	1,378	1,353	1,418	1,539	2,099	2,532	2,646	2,743	8.5%	36.4%	20.6%	4.5%	3.7%
Weighted Avg All Colleges & University*	2,093	2,059	2,044	2,091	2,119	2,172	2,959	3,675	4,381	4,594	2.5%	36.2%	24.2%	19.2%	4.9%

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education: Fiscal Policy (Tuition & Fee Survey)

*Weighted data calculated based on % Undergraduate FTE of total by Segment and overall.

Note: Fees do not include scheduled increase of \$750 effective in spring 2004 per campus at the University of Massachusetts.

Tuition and Mandatory Fees at Massachusetts Public Colleges and University
Full-Time Resident Undergraduate State-Supported Rates

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% Change				
											FY02 -01	FY03 -02	FY04 -03	FY05 -04	FY06 -05
UMass Amherst	5,413	5,329	5,229	5,212	5,212	5,212	6,482	7,482	9,008	9,278	0.0%	24.4%	15.4%	20.4%	3.0%
UMass Boston	4,343	4,292	4,192	4,222	4,222	4,222	5,222	6,232	8,024	8,265	0.0%	23.7%	19.3%	28.8%	3.0%
UMass Dartmouth	4,151	4,254	4,171	4,129	4,129	4,129	5,129	6,129	7,802	8,036	0.0%	24.2%	19.5%	27.3%	3.0%
UMass Lowell	4,512	4,422	4,337	4,255	4,255	4,255	5,213	6,214	7,891	8,166	0.0%	22.5%	19.2%	27.0%	3.5%
Bridgewater	3,440	3,303	3,183	3,063	2,883	2,823	3,735	4,390	5,326	5,506	-2.1%	32.3%	17.5%	21.3%	3.4%
Fitchburg	3,330	3,296	3,208	3,018	3,018	2,988	3,688	4,186	4,588	5,002	-1.0%	23.4%	13.5%	9.6%	9.0%
Framingham	3,228	3,150	3,070	2,890	2,830	2,770	3,334	4,324	4,654	4,999	-2.1%	20.4%	29.7%	7.6%	7.4%
MassArt	4,034	3,964	3,904	3,808	3,878	4,068	4,968	5,768	6,400	6,850	4.9%	22.1%	16.1%	11.0%	7.0%
MCLA	3,485	3,437	3,377	3,357	3,357	3,497	4,197	5,397	5,417	5,616	4.2%	20.0%	28.6%	0.4%	3.7%
Mass Maritime	3,174	3,104	3,044	2,924	2,873	2,913	3,663	4,863	5,163	5,308	1.4%	25.7%	32.8%	6.2%	2.8%
Salem	3,344	3,257	3,078	2,958	3,098	3,038	3,938	4,988	5,454	5,594	-1.9%	29.6%	26.7%	9.3%	2.6%
Westfield	3,162	3,094	3,034	2,974	2,916	2,956	3,755	4,558	4,857	5,658	1.4%	27.0%	21.4%	6.6%	16.5%
Worcester	2,683	2,615	2,555	2,458	2,508	2,573	3,273	4,123	4,579	5,080	2.6%	27.2%	26.0%	11.1%	10.9%
Berkshire	2,700	2,640	2,580	2,520	2,490	2,700	3,090	3,390	3,390	3,600	8.4%	14.4%	9.7%	0.0%	6.2%
Bristol	2,460	2,340	2,220	2,070	2,070	2,160	2,820	3,060	3,240	3,750	4.3%	30.6%	8.5%	5.9%	15.7%
Bunker Hill	2,400	2,340	2,190	2,040	1,950	1,950	2,400	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%	23.1%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cape Cod	2,610	2,535	2,362	2,280	2,310	2,460	3,180	3,180	3,660	3,660	6.5%	29.3%	0.0%	15.1%	0.0%
Greenfield	2,462	2,387	2,327	2,237	2,297	2,507	3,017	3,317	3,647	3,982	9.1%	20.3%	9.9%	9.9%	9.2%
Holyoke	2,532	2,476	2,326	2,176	2,176	2,436	2,796	3,096	3,098	3,188	11.9%	14.8%	10.7%	0.1%	2.9%
Massachusetts Bay	2,370	2,250	2,205	2,010	1,890	1,960	2,870	3,170	3,650	3,650	3.7%	46.4%	10.5%	15.1%	0.0%
Massasoit	2,370	2,280	2,160	2,070	2,040	2,040	2,640	3,330	3,330	3,330	0.0%	29.4%	26.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Middlesex	2,750	2,630	2,450	2,360	2,360	2,510	3,020	3,380	3,650	3,650	6.4%	20.3%	11.9%	8.0%	0.0%
Mount Wachusett	3,060	2,950	2,800	2,660	2,570	2,690	3,410	4,010	4,010	3,970	4.7%	26.8%	17.6%	0.0%	-1.0%
North Shore	2,490	2,400	2,220	2,130	2,190	2,490	3,090	3,390	3,390	3,480	13.7%	24.1%	9.7%	0.0%	2.7%
Northern Essex	2,550	2,445	2,310	2,220	2,190	2,280	2,670	2,970	2,970	3,150	4.1%	17.1%	11.2%	0.0%	6.1%
Quinsigamond	2,370	2,250	2,070	1,980	1,890	1,890	2,730	3,600	3,600	3,600	0.0%	44.4%	31.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Roxbury	2,400	2,280	2,190	2,070	2,100	2,100	2,450	3,250	3,460	3,460	0.0%	16.7%	32.7%	6.5%	0.0%
STCC	2,630	2,510	2,360	2,270	2,184	2,434	2,734	3,144	3,204	3,354	11.4%	12.3%	15.0%	1.9%	4.7%
Weighted Avg UMass*	4,892	4,828	4,727	4,706	4,697	4,693	5,798	6,801	8,437	8,697	-0.1%	23.5%	17.3%	24.0%	3.1%
Weighted Avg State Colleges*	3,287	3,192	3,103	2,984	2,962	2,954	3,743	4,590	5,100	5,448	-0.3%	26.7%	22.6%	11.1%	6.8%
Weighted Avg Community Colleges*	2,529	2,427	2,297	2,182	2,153	2,273	2,833	3,265	3,380	3,477	5.6%	24.6%	15.3%	3.5%	2.9%
Weighted Avg All Colleges & University*	3,571	3,447	3,337	3,257	3,229	3,264	4,041	4,753	5,457	5,670	1.1%	23.8%	17.6%	14.8%	3.9%

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education: Fiscal Policy (Tuition & Fee Survey)

*Weighted data calculated based on % Undergraduate FTE of total by Segment and overall.

Note: Fees do not include scheduled increase of \$750 effective in spring 2004 per campus at the University of Massachusetts.

Part Four: Veterans Currently Using the Tuition Waivers

Currently, any veteran as defined by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 4, Section 7 (43), may be eligible for tuition waivers under section 19 of Chapter 15A. According to the Board of Higher Education, 4,046 veterans utilized this waiver in FY 2005, for a total value of \$1,974,558.

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

FY 2005 Tuition Waivers

Source: HEIRS - Fiscal Measures

Segment	Institution	Title	Total Value	Total # Students
U Mass	University of Massachusetts Amherst	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	105,123	78
U Mass	University of Massachusetts Boston	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	138,924	284
U Mass	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	152,926	215
U Mass	University of Massachusetts Lowell	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	426,731	337
SC	Bridgewater State College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	50,161	107
SC	Fitchburg State College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	61,469	118
SC	Framingham State College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	114,635	218
SC	Massachusetts College of Art	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	9,633	23
SC	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	17,510	38
SC	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	5,724	7
SC	Salem State College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	152,521	174
SC	Westfield State College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	72,365	110
SC	Worcester State College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	165,632	154
CC	Berkshire Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	18,070	104
CC	Bristol Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	36,840	125
CC	Bunker Hill Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	45,727	150
CC	Cape Cod Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	30,480	100
CC	Greenfield Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	9,965	35
CC	Holyoke Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	60,510	415
CC	Mass Bay Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	22,741	60
CC	Massasoit Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	37,272	130
CC	Middlesex Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	29,351	92
CC	Mt. Wachusett Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	18,938	59
CC	North Shore Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	54,942	143

CC	Northern Essex Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	23,015	104
CC	Quinsigamond Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	43,812	228
CC	Springfield Technical Community College	Veterans/Vietnam veterans	69,541	438
Total Veterans			1,974,558	4,046

Part Five: State-Supported and Non-State Supported Classes

Public institutions of higher learning offer various types of classes, including classes that are commonly referred to as “state-supported” and “non-state supported” classes. In its research, the Commission found that many schools do not apply the current tuition waiver to “non-state supported” classes, which can include night, weekend, online and adjunct professor-taught classes. “Non-state supported classes” are often the sole option for those individuals who are unable to attend classes offered during traditional working hours. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, the Commission has examined the cost of implementing tuition and fee waiver benefits for both state and non-state supported classes.

Part Six: Views and Estimates

Fee structures are determined by individual campuses and therefore vary according to locale. In the current fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2006), the weighted average of all colleges and University fees is \$4,594. If the number of participants remains constant in Fiscal Year 2007, the cost of this waiver program would be \$12,847,408. However, as the elimination of fees will open the door for many more veterans who were previously unable to afford an education, the numbers can be expected to increase. According to the Board of Higher Education’s Office of Veterans Affairs, it is reasonable to expect the number of participants to double. Below is data outlining the cost estimates for implementing the tuition and fee waivers by factors of one, two, and three.

Student Participation is unchanged

Servicemember	State Tuition	Local Tuition	Total Tuition	Total Fees	Total Cost
Veterans	808,727	1,332,508	2,141,235	10,706,173	12,847,408

Student Participation Increases by Factor of 2

Servicemember	State Tuition	Local Tuition	Total Tuition	Total Fees	Total Cost
Veterans	1,617,453	2,665,016	4,282,469	21,412,346	25,694,815

Student Participation Increases by Factor of 3

Servicemember	State Tuition	Local Tuition	Total Tuition	Total Fees	Total Cost
Veterans	2,426,180	3,997,524	6,423,704	32,118,519	38,542,223

Part Seven: Conclusions

The Commission recommends initially funding a tuition and fee waiver program for veterans to attend public institutions of higher learning under the assumption that enrollment could double. The Commission recommends that the Legislature establish a trust fund with an initial appropriation of \$25.7 million in the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. This trust will allow the Board of Higher Education to retain any remaining funds. The remaining funds shall be available solely for the veterans' tuition and fee waiver program.

The Commission recommends that legislation should be introduced to permanently enact a veterans' tuition and fee waiver program and has outlined legislative recommendations below.

- The program will be administered by the Board of Higher Education, which shall provide full tuition and fee waivers for all veterans at public institutions of higher learning. The Board of Higher Education shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs and the Department of Veterans' Services on a semi-annual basis (October 1st and February 1st). The Board of Higher Education shall develop standardized reporting requirements and uniform report forms relative to veterans' tuition and fee waivers. The report shall include but not be limited to 1) the number of unique veterans using the waivers, 2) the number of waivers used for state supported classes, 3) number of waivers used for non-state supported classes, 4) the type of student (full or part-time), 5) the age of each recipients and 6) the gender of each recipient. The report shall be used to determine the reimbursement from the commonwealth to the institutions.
- The Commission recommends that said tuition and fee waivers shall be made available to both full and part-time students.
- The Commission recommends that said tuition and fee waivers shall be applied to, but not be limited to state and non-state supported classes.
- The Commission recommends that any veteran may apply the tuition and fee waivers towards any credit bearing class.
- The Commission recommends that any veteran who has resided in the Commonwealth for a period of 24 hours or more be eligible for in-state tuition rates and therefore eligibility for said program. All participants must provide proof of residency prior to each semester's enrollment. (Note: All veterans are currently eligible for Chapter 115 benefits after having resided in the Commonwealth for a period of 24 hours.)
- The Commission recommends that each participant be required to show proof that he or she has applied for all available federal education benefits, excluding Montgomery GI Bill benefits.

Special Thanks

The Commission would like to extend a thank you to all of those individuals who gave their time and expertise to help with the production of this report. We would like to especially recognize the contributions of the Board of Higher Education, the Department of Veterans' Services, and the State Treasurer's Office.